Title: Lewis H. Steiner Papers
Collection dates: 1883 - 1892

Collection number: MS 15.2
Extent: 2 linear feet, 1 box
Creator: Lewis H. Steiner
Condition of access: Unrestricted, by appointment only
Language: English
Repository: Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections

Contact Information:
Enoch Pratt Free Library
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Institutional History:
1884 November-The Board of Trustees chose Lewis H. Steiner to be the first Librarian (i.e., Director) of the Pratt Library.

1885 *February 25*-The Pratt Library purchased its first books, and Charles Evans, Assistant Librarian, began to catalog them.

1886 *January 5*-The Central Library on Mulberry Street opened.
Within the next three months, the Pratt Library would open:

- Branch 4 (at Canton and O'Donnell Streets - the Canton Branch still exists today)
- Branch 3 (at Light and Gittings Streets)
- Branch 2 (at Hollins and Calhoun Streets)
- Branch 1 (at Fremont and Pitcher Streets)
- October 15: the Pratt Library issued a borrowers card to Harry S. Cummings of 935 North Eutaw Street. He was the first African American to get a Pratt Library card.

1888 November 4-Branch 5 opened on the corner of Broadway and Miller Street. The Broadway Branch was relocated in 1971 to the corner of Broadway and Orleans Street. In 2007 it moved again to the corner of Orleans Street and Central Avenue and was renamed the Orleans Street Branch.

1892-Bernard C. Steiner was appointed Director, replacing his father, the late Lewis H. Steiner.

Biographical History:

Scope and Contents Note:

The Lewis H. Steiner Papers include administrative papers and correspondence as well as some miscellaneous items that provide a glimpse of individuals and organizations of this time period. The correspondence with the Library Committee offers insight into the early decision making process of collection development at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Correspondence with both staff and patrons, along with the administrative papers, documents the daily operations of the EPFL under the direction of Lewis H. Steiner. More information on the institutional history of the Enoch Pratt Free Library can be obtained by consulting the collections of Enoch Pratt and Bernard C. Steiner.

Container List:

Series I: Administrative Papers

Box 1	Folder 1	Building Maintenance and Security
	Folder 2	Financial Records
	Folder 3	Policies and Procedures

Series II: Correspondence

Subseries 1: With Library Committee

Box 1	Folder 4	Board Meetings
	Folder 5	Book Requests, 1885 - 1892

Subseries 2: With Book Dealers

Box 1	Folder 6	Boston Book Co
	Folder 7	Stechert, Gustav
	Folder 8	Library Bureau
	Folder 9	Sun Books
	Folder 10	General/Mixed

Subseries 3: General Correspondence

Box 1	Folder 11	Authors
	Folder 12	Carnegie, Andrew
	Folder 13	Davidson, Henry
	Folder 14	EPFL staff
	Folder 15	Green, Samuel
	Folder 16	Institutions
	Folder 17	Janes, Henry
	Folder 18	Job Inquiries & Letters of Recommendation
	Folder 19	Edward Muybridge
	Folder 20	Patrons
	Folder 21	RSVP's for branch opening
	Folder 22	Stabler, E., Jr.

Subseries 4: The Development of American Free Libraries

	Folder 23	Department of the Interior
	Folder 24	Government Officials
	Folder 25	Other libraries

Series III: Miscellaneous

Box 1	Folder 26	Biographical Information Includes 2 Pamphlets Photocopied: 1) Stephen Steiner, 1767-1829, Architect-Builder-Citizen. By Frances A. Randall (approx 2007). 2) A Gift to Frederick: Stephen Steiner's House The Frederick Woman's Civic Club, Inc. by Octavia Zimmerman, Eleanor E. Harper, Frances A. Randall (May 1984)
	Folder 27	Mixed/ General
	Folder 28	Opening Day Materials [EPFL]
	Folder 29	Personal Correspondence

Processed by: *Carolyn Sheffield, Updated by Jenette Parish and Cayce Phillips, April 2009.*